

## Drive/Host Locking System

5

### *ABSTRACT*

10 An authentication system for securing information within a disk drive to be read  
and written to only by a specific host computer such that it is difficult or  
impossible to access the drive by any system other than a designated host is  
disclosed. While the invention is similar in intent to a password scheme, it  
significantly more secure. The invention thus provides a secure environment for  
important information stored within a disk drive. The information can only be  
15 accessed by a host if the host can respond to random challenges asked by the  
disk drive. The host's responses are generated using a cryptography chip  
processing a specific algorithm. This technique allows the disk drive and the  
host to communicate using a coded security system where attempts to break the  
code and choose the correct password take longer to learn than the useful life of  
the disk drive itself.

20

004261-08100